

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a complete list of claims. The claims below replace all prior versions of the claims in the application. Please cancel claims 1, 9, 17, 20, 23, 26, 34, 36, 47, 49, 53 – 58, 60 – 62 and 73. Please amend claims 2 – 8, 10 – 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27 – 33, 35, 38 – 46, 48, 50 – 52, 59, 63 – 72, 74 and 75. Please add new claims 76 – 90.

1. Canceled
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, 1, further comprising, in response to the determination that the user does not qualify to receive the media content, offering a the media subscription level to the user that includes the requested media content. ~~if the user does not qualify to receive the media selection.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, 1, wherein sending the media content includes sending the media content ~~the media selection is delivered to the client system via the Internet.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein, in response to the determination that the user does qualify to receive the media content, initiating playback of the media content by the media player. ~~1, further comprising maintaining a media player for the user for viewing the media selection.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein allowing the user to access the feature of the media player includes ~~4, further comprising modifying the media player, according to the subscription level.~~
6. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering media content, the method comprising:  
maintaining a record comprising information about a user and a media subscription level obtained by the user;  
receiving from the user a request for media content;

determining whether or not the user qualifies to receive the media content;  
in response to the determination that the user does qualify to receive the  
media content, sending the media content to a device of the user that  
includes a media player to play the media content;

~~The method of claim 4, further~~ determining whether or not the user qualifies  
to access a feature of the media player that enhances the playback of the  
media content; and

in response to the determination that the user does qualify to access the  
feature, allowing the user to access the feature ~~controlling access by the~~  
~~user to features of the media player, according to the media subscription~~  
~~level.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the requested media  
content is included in a group of media content available under the user's media  
subscription level. ~~1, further comprising enabling the user to select one or more~~  
~~media offerings included in the subscription level.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, 7, further comprising:  
receiving from the user a request to change the availability of media content  
under the user's media subscription level;

determining whether or not the user's media subscription level covers the  
requested change in availability; and

in response to the determination that the subscription level does cover the  
change in availability, changing the availability of the media content under  
the user's media subscription level. ~~enabling the user to alter the one or~~  
~~more media offerings included in the subscription level.~~

9. Canceled

10. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 14, 9, wherein, in response  
to the determination that the user does not qualify to receive the media content,  
the control module is further configured to offer a ~~the~~ media subscription level to

the user that includes the requested media content. ~~if the user does not qualify to receive the media selection.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 14, 9, wherein the control module is further configured to send ~~deliver~~ the media content ~~selection~~ to the ~~client system~~ via the Internet.
12. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 14, 9, wherein the control module is configured to modify the media player to allow the user to access the feature of the media player. ~~further comprising a media player module configured to enable the user to view the media selection.~~
13. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 14, 12, wherein the control module, in response to the determination that the user does qualify to receive the media content, initiates playback of the media content by the media player. ~~module is further configured to present the media selection according to the subscription level.~~
14. (Currently Amended) A computer system for delivering media content, the computer system comprising:
  - a database module configured to store a record comprising information about a user and a media subscription level obtained by the user;
  - a communication module configured to receive from a user a request for media content; and
  - a control module configured to:
    - determine whether or not the user qualifies to receive the requested media content according to the media subscription level, and, in response to the determination that the user does qualify to receive the media content, send the media content to a device of the user that includes a media player to play the media content, and
    - determine whether or not the user qualifies to access a feature of the media player that enhances the playback of the media content, and in response to the determination that the user does qualify to

access the feature, allow the user to ~~The computer system of claim 12, wherein the media player module is further configured to control access by the user to the feature\_s of the media player, according to the media subscription level.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 14, 9, wherein the requested media content is included in a group of media content available under the user's media subscription level. ~~the control module is further configured to enable the user to select one or more media offerings included in the subscription level.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 14, 15, wherein:

The communication module is further configured to receive from the user a request to change the availability of media content under the user's media subscription level, and

the control module is further configured to:

determine whether or not the user's media subscription level covers the requested change in availability, and

in response to the determination that the subscription level does cover the change in availability, change the availability of the media content under the user's media subscription level. ~~enable the user to select one or more media offerings included in the subscription level.~~

17. Canceled

18. (Currently Amended) The medium method of claim 22, 17, wherein, in response to the determination that the user does not qualify to receive the media content, the program further causes the computer to further comprising offer a ~~ing the media subscription level to the user that includes the requested media content. if the user does not qualify to receive the media selection.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The medium method of claim 22, 17, wherein, the program further causes the computer to send ~~the media selection is delivered to the client system via the Internet.~~

20. Canceled

21. (Currently Amended) The medium method of claim 22, 20, wherein, the program causes the computer to modify the media player to allow the user to access the feature of the media player. further comprising modifying the media player, according to the subscription level.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program that, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to:  
store a record comprising information about a user and a media subscription level obtained by the user;  
determine whether or not the user qualifies to receive media content that the user has requested from the computer;  
in response to the determination that the user does qualify to receive the media content, send the media content to a device of the user that includes a media player to play the media content;  
determine whether or not the user qualifies to access a feature of the media player that enhances the playback of the media content; and  
in response to the determination that the user does qualify to access the feature, allow the user to ~~The method of claim 20, further comprising controlling access by the user to feature\_s of the media player, according to the media subscription level.~~

23. Canceled

24. (Currently Amended) The medium method of claim 22, 23, wherein the program further causes the computer to:

determine whether or not a user's media subscription level covers a user's requested change in media content available under the user's media subscription level, and

in response to the determination that the subscription level does cover the change in availability, change the availability of the media content under

the user's media subscription level. ~~comprising enabling the user to alter the one or more media offerings included in the subscription level.~~

25. (Currently Amended) A computer system for receiving media content ~~controlling access to a selected feature of a software application on a client computer,~~ the computer system comprising:

a control module configured to:

request media content from a provider;

receive the media content from the provider, provided that the reception of the content is included in a media subscription level obtained from the provider; and

receive access to a feature of a media player that enhances the playback of the media content, provided that access to the feature is included in the media subscription level.

~~launch the software application with a subset of available features enabled, wherein the subset does not include the selected feature; and~~

~~an interface module configured to prompt a user to sign in to a server that can be coupled to the client computer via a network, and enabling the selected feature in response to a successful sign in.~~

26. Canceled

27. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 25, wherein the control module is configured to receive the media content via the network ~~is the Internet.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 25, wherein the control module is configured to sign in to a sever of the provider to request the media content from the provider. ~~also controls the user's access to media content that is selectively provided to the client computer on a subscription basis.~~

29. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 25, wherein the selected feature includes ~~is~~ a graphic equalizer.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 25, wherein the selected feature includes ~~is a~~ screen selection mode that permits a user to vary a screen size for a multimedia presentation.
31. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 25, wherein the selected feature does one of the following: reduces the number of advertisements included in the media content or omits the advertisements. ~~is an absence of or reduction in advertisements.~~
32. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 25, wherein the control module is configured to:  
sign in to a sever of the provider to request the media content from the provider, and  
~~the control module is further configured to receive an indication that the user has signed off from the remote server, and to disable access to the selected feature~~ while not signed in to the provider's server. ~~in response to the sign off.~~
33. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 25, wherein the control module is configured to receive the access to the software feature is controlled each time the media content is received. ~~software application is launched.~~
34. Canceled
35. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of~~ for receiving media content, controlling access to a selected feature of a software application on a client computer, the method comprising:  
requesting media content from a provider;  
receiving the media content from the provider, provided that the reception of the content is included in a media subscription level obtained from the provider; and

receiving access to a feature of a media player that enhances the playback of the media content, provided that access to the feature is included in the media subscription level.

~~launching the software application with a subset of available features enabled, wherein the subset does not include the selected feature;~~

~~prompting a user to sign in to a server that is coupled to the client computer via a network; and~~

~~enabling the selected feature in response to a successful sign in.~~

36. Canceled

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein receiving the media content includes receiving the content via ~~the network comprises the Internet.~~

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein requesting the media content from the provider includes signing in to a server of the provider. ~~the sign in also controls the user's access to media content that is selectively provided to the client computer on a subscription basis.~~

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~35, 38,~~ wherein access to the selected feature is included in the media subscription level as long as the subscription level includes media content from the provider. ~~enabled for a sign in that is related to a first subscription that includes a plurality of media content providers, and the selected feature is disabled for a sign in that is related to a second subscription, where the second subscription includes at least one media content provider less than the plurality of media content providers.~~

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the selected feature comprises a graphic equalizer.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the selected feature comprises a screen selection mode that permits a user to vary a screen size for a multimedia presentation.



42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the selected feature does one of the following: reduces the number of advertisements included in the media content or omits the ~~is an absence of or reduction in advertisements.~~
43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35,  
wherein requesting the media content from the provider includes signing in to a server of the provider, and  
further comprising losing access to the feature while not signed in to the provider's server. :  
~~receiving an indication that the user has signed off from the remote server;~~  
and  
~~disabling access to the selected feature in response to the sign off.~~
44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the access to the software feature is received ~~controlled~~ each time the media content is received. ~~software application is launched.~~
45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein receiving access to the feature includes modifying the media player. ~~enabling the selected feature in response to a successful sign in further comprises:~~  
~~receiving an indication from the server that is provided in response to the sign in; and~~  
~~controlling the enabling of the selected feature in response to the indication.~~
46. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a program that, when having stored thereon instructions, which when executed by a computer causes the computer to: ~~processor performs the method comprising:~~  
receive media content requested from a provider, provided that the reception of the content is included in a media subscription level obtained from the provider; and

receiving access to a feature of a media player that enhances the playback of the media content, provided that the access to the feature is included in the media subscription level.

~~launching a software application with a subset of available features enabled, wherein the subset the selected feature is disabled;~~

~~prompting a user to sign in to a server via a network; and~~

~~enabling the selected feature in response to a successful sign in.~~

47. Canceled

48. (Currently Amended) The medium ~~method~~ of claim 46, wherein the program causes the computer to receive the media content via the network is the Internet.

49. Canceled

50. (Currently Amended) The medium ~~method~~ of claim 46, wherein the selected feature includes is a graphic equalizer.

51. (Currently Amended) The medium ~~method~~ of claim 46, wherein the selected feature includes is a screen selection mode that permits a user to vary a screen size for a multimedia presentation.

52. (Currently Amended) The medium ~~method~~ of claim 46, wherein the selected feature does one of the following: reduces the number of advertisements included in the media content or omits the advertisements. is an absence of advertisements.

53. – 58. Canceled

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, 58, further comprising receiving a periodic payment to keep the user qualified to receive media content covered by the media subscription level. ~~wherein the condition is a subscription to a service that requires a periodic payment.~~

60. – 62. Canceled

63. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, 62, wherein the request from the user includes is a selecting on of a hyperlink that corresponds to the subscription media content.
64. (Currently Amended) The A-method of claim 6, wherein, in response to the determination that the user does not qualify to receive the media content, sending the user an opportunity to purchase a media subscription level that would qualify the user to receive the requested media content. controlling playback of media content, the method comprising:
- ~~receiving a request for subscription media content;~~
  - ~~determining whether sign-in information has been provided that permits access to the subscription media content;~~
  - ~~providing a sign-in process in response to an unsuccessful sign-in such to enable access to the subscription media content;~~
  - ~~automatically retrieving the subscription media content in response to a successful sign-in; and~~
  - ~~automatically initiating playback of the subscription media content in response to the successful sign-in, without receiving another request for the subscription media content.~~
65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, 64, wherein the request from the user includes is a selecting on of a hyperlink that corresponds to the subscription media content.
66. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 22, wherein, in response to the determination that the user does not qualify to receive the media content, the program further causes the computer to send the user an opportunity to obtain a media subscription level that would qualify the user to receive the requested media content. a computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions for controlling playback of media content, which when executed by a computer processor perform the method comprising:
- ~~receiving a request from a user for subscription media content;~~

~~determining whether the user has provided sign-in information that permits access to the subscription media content;~~

~~providing a sign-in process upon indication of an unsuccessful sign-in to enable access to the subscription media content;~~

~~automatically retrieving the subscription media content in response to a successful sign-in; and~~

~~automatically initiating playback of the subscription media content in response to the successful sign-in, without receiving another request for the subscription media content.~~

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein, in response to the determination that the user does qualify to receive the media content, the program further causes the computer to initiate playback of the media content by the media player. ~~66, wherein the request from the user is a selection of a hyperlink that corresponds to the subscription media content.~~

68. (Currently Amended) A method of allocating subscription fees for media content, the method comprising:

receiving from a user a subscription fee to allow the user to access media content from a plurality of media content providers; and

providing a media content provider included in the plurality of content providers a portion of the subscription first fee; wherein the portion is determined by the number of times the user accesses the media content from the media content provider. ~~to a media content provider in response to a first subscription from a first user, where the first subscription includes only a subscription of the media content provider, where the media content provider provides access to subscription-only content over a computer network; and~~

~~providing a second fee to the media content provider in response to a second subscription from a second user, where the second subscription includes a plurality of subscriptions to a plurality of media content providers that~~

~~includes the media content provider, where the second fee is different from the first.~~

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~81, 68~~, wherein the portion of the subscription second fee from the second user is higher than the portion of the subscription fee from the other user. ~~first fee.~~
70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein access to the media content is provided via the computer network ~~is the Internet.~~
71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein the media content is transmitted ~~the computer network transmits media content that is in a packet format.~~
72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein the portion of the subscription first fee is ~~is and the second fee are provided to the media content provider electronically.~~
73. Canceled
74. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~68, 73~~, wherein the media content comprises audio and video content.
75. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~68, 73~~, wherein the media content is streamed over the internet. ~~computer network.~~
76. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the feature includes a graphic equalizer.
77. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the feature includes a screen selection mode that permits a user to vary a screen size for a multimedia presentation.
78. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the feature includes doing one of the following: reducing the number of advertisements included in the media content or omitting the advertisements.
79. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein determining whether or not the user qualifies to access the feature includes determining whether or not the user's media subscription level has expired.

80. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein determining whether or not the user qualifies to receive the media content includes determining whether or not the user's media subscription level has expired.
81. (New) The method of claim 68 further comprising:
- receiving from a second user a subscription fee to allow the second user to access media content from the media content provider; and
  - providing the media content provider a portion of the subscription fee from the second user.
82. (New) A method for allocating subscription fees for media content, the method comprising:
- receiving from a user a subscription fee to allow the user to access media content from a plurality of media content providers; and
  - providing a media content provider included in the plurality of content providers a portion of the subscription fee; wherein the portion is determined by the number of users who have included the media content provider in their subscription plan.
83. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein the media content comprises audio and video content.
84. (New) The method of claim 82, wherein the media content is streamed over the internet.
85. (New) The method of claim 82, further comprising:
- receiving from a second user a subscription fee to allow the second user to access media content from the media content provider; and
  - providing the media content provider a portion of the subscription fee from the second user.
86. (New) A method for allocating subscription fees for media content, the method comprising:

receiving from a user a subscription fee to allow the user to access media content from a plurality of media content providers; and

providing a media content provider included in the plurality of content providers a portion of the subscription fee; wherein the portion is determined by the type of media content provided by the media content provider.

87. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein the portion of the subscription fee provided to a media content provider for a weather report is less than the portion provided to a media content provider for a television show.
88. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein the media content comprises audio and video content.
89. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein the media content is streamed over the internet.
90. (New) The method of claim 86, further comprising:

receiving from a second user a subscription fee to allow the second user to access media content from the media content provider; and

providing the media content provider a portion of the subscription fee from the second user.